

Remarks

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 20, 2004. Claims 1, 6, 11, 17 and 25 have been amended. Claim 26 has been canceled. Claims 1-25 remain pending in this case.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6-10, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, claim 6 and 25 have been amended to further define the system which the applicant's regard as the invention, a "computer" system. Claims 6-10, 25 and 26 are now believed to be in compliance with § 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejection is requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ray et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,529) in view of *Pitroda* (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,271). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Amended claim 1 recites a method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising in part the steps of storing in a centralized database a record of each sales receipt generated for each transaction of the plurality of transactions, and converting a selected record stored in the centralized database into a plurality of data formats, wherein the buyer associated with the selected record may perform one of plurality of organizational functions for the converted record.

Amended claim 6 recites a computer system for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising in part a database controlled by the receipt handler, the database

storing a record of each sales receipt generated for a plurality of transactions in a plurality of data formats, no transaction of the plurality of transactions occurring between the same buyer and seller as any other transaction of the plurality of transactions, and wherein a selected buyer may access the records of sales receipts stored in the database associated with the selected buyer to perform a plurality of organizational functions, each corresponding to one of the plurality of data formats, for each sales receipt by submitting a request to the receipt handler.

Amended claim 11 recites a computer program product for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, the computer program product comprising a computer-usable medium carrying in part a means for storing in a centralized database a record of each sales receipt generated for a plurality of transactions in a plurality of data formats, no transaction of the plurality of transactions occurring between the same buyer and seller as any other transaction of the plurality of transactions and a means for accessing by a selected buyer the records of sales receipts stored in the centralized database associated with the selected buyer to perform a plurality of organizational functions, each associated with one of the plurality of data formats, for each sales receipt.

Amended claim 17 recites a method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising in part the steps of storing in a centralized database a record of each sales receipt generated for each transaction of the plurality of transactions in a plurality of data formats, selecting a record in the centralized database associated with a selected buyer and organizing the record based on buyer preference.

Amended claim 25 recites a computer system for collecting electronic receipts for a plurality of sales transactions between buyers and sellers, comprising in part a centralized database for storing a record of each sales receipt generated for each transaction of the

plurality of sales transactions and transferring from the centralized database at least one record of sales receipts associated with a selected buyer into a finance management system.

Claim 16 recites a method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising in part the step of transferring from the centralized database at least one record of sales receipts associated with a selected buyer into a finance management system.

Claim 24 recites a method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising in part the step of performing, for a selected buyer, customer self service applications with respect to a selected record associated with the selected buyer stored in the centralized database, the customer self service applications selected from a group consisting of: transferring the selected record between the centralized database and a finance management system; retrieving warranty information for an item in the selected record; retrieving a manual for an item in the selected record; retrieving rebate information for an item in the selected record; retrieving recall information for an item in the selected record; retrieving accessory information for an item in the selected record; and retrieving product return information for an item in the selected record.

Ray generally discloses a:

telecommunications system and method is disclosed for providing a substantially immediate electronic receipt after a consumer has made a purchase. When a consumer makes a purchase, the sales terminal, which is attached with a short message/e-mail sending capable terminal, can generate and route a short message along with the detailed purchase information to a transport address or alias address associated with the consumer via a Gatekeeper for the Internet for the area that the sales terminal is located in.

See Ray, Abstract.

Pitroda discloses a universal electronic transaction card ("UET card") which is capable of storing, transmitting and receiving personal and transactional information. See Pitroda, column 2, lines 43-46. The UET card is capable of storing the user's employee number (if applicable), insurance policy number or numbers for various type of insurance, club membership account numbers, credit card company account numbers for a variety of credit card companies, automatic banking numbers for one or more bank accounts, and any other financial or personal transactional information. See Pitroda, column 2, lines 60-65.

The Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the subject matter of claims 1-25. Courts have generally recognized that a showing of a *prima facie* case of obviousness necessitates three requirements: (i) some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in art, to modify the reference or combine the references teachings; (ii) a reasonable expectation of success; and (iii) the prior art references must teach or suggest all claim limitations. See e.g., In re Dembiczak, 175 F.3d 994 (Fed. Cir. 1999); In re Rouffet, 149 F.3d 1350, 1355 (Fed. Cir. 1998); Pro-Mold & Tool Co. v. Great Lakes Plastics, Inc., 75 F.3d 1568, 1573 (Fed. Cir. 1996). The references used in the Office Action fail at least the third prong of obviousness in that the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations.

In the present case, neither *Ray* nor *Pitroda* teach or suggest converting a selected record stored in the centralized database into a selected one of a plurality of data formats, wherein the buyer associated with the selected record may perform one of a plurality of organizational functions for the converted record, as recited in claim 1. To the contrary, both *Ray* and *Pitroda* fail to address the conversion of records into a selected data format, and the performance of organizational functions (such as in financial software, or the like) by the

buyer for the converted records. Thus, the combination of *Ray* and *Pitroda* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 6, 11 and 17 also recite limitations regarding multiple data formats for records, which are accessible by the buyer and the performance of organizational functions on a sales receipt by the buyer analogous to claim 1. As noted above with respect to claim 1, neither *Ray* nor *Pitroda* teach or suggest such limitations. Thus, the combination of *Ray* and *Pitroda* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 6, 11 and 17.

In addition, neither *Ray* nor *Pitroda* teach or suggest transferring from the centralized database at least one record of sales receipts associated with a selected buyer into a finance management system, as recited in claim 16. To the contrary, *Pitroda* merely discloses the transfer of information from the UET card to a central database or personal computer. See *Pitroda*, column 11, lines 4-9. Thus, the combination of *Ray* and *Pitroda* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 16.

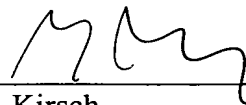
Claims 24 and 25 also recite a limitation regarding the transfer of records between a central database and a finance management system similar to claim 16. As noted above with respect to claim 16, neither *Ray* nor *Pitroda* teach or suggest such limitations. Thus, the combination of *Ray* and *Pitroda* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 24 and 25. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 17, 24 and 25 are allowable over the combination of *Ray* and *Pitroda*, and the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and claims 7-10 depend from claim 6, and claims 12-15 depend from claim 11, and claims 18-23 depend from claim 17, and are allowable along with claims 1, 6, 11 and 17 respectively, for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 17.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. A two-month extension of time fee is believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully Submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

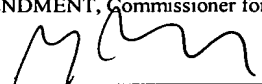


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March 15, 2005
Date